

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A memory device comprising:
  - a plurality of normal memory cells;
  - a plurality of spare memory cells used instead of a defective memory cell when said defective memory exists in said plurality of normal memory cells;
  - a plurality of bit lines used for reading data from said plurality of normal memory cells;
  - a read amplifying circuit reading data from said plurality of normal memory cells and said plurality of spare memory cells;
  - 10 a plurality of data lines for connecting said plurality of bit lines to said read amplifying circuit; and
  - 15 a connecting circuit forming parts of paths connecting said plurality of data lines to said plurality of normal memory cells and said plurality of spare memory cells so as to substantially equalize load capacitance of said plurality of data lines, wherein
  - 20 said connecting circuit not only connects a first selected bit line among said plurality of bit lines to be selected according to a first input address to a first data line among said plurality of data lines, but also forms parts of paths that connect a part of said plurality of spare memory cells to be selected according to said first input address to a second data line different from said first data line among said plurality of data lines, and also not only connects a second selected bit line among said plurality of bit lines to be selected according to a second input address to said second data line, but also forms parts of paths that connect a part of said plurality of spare memory cells to be selected according to said second input address to said first data line.
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2. The memory device according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - first and second spare bit lines for reading data from said plurality of spare memory cells, wherein
  - said connecting circuit includes:

5           a first column select gate connecting said first selected bit line to said  
first data line according to said first input address;  
              a second column select gate connecting said second spare bit line to  
said second data line according to said first input address;  
              a third column select gate connecting said second selected bit line to  
10          said second data line according to said second input address; and  
              a fourth column select gate connecting said first spare bit line to said  
first data line according to said second input address.

3. The memory device according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a spare bit line for reading from said plurality of spare memory cells,  
wherein

5           said connecting circuit includes:  
              a first column select gate connecting said first selected bit line to said  
first data line according to said first input address;  
              a second column select gate connecting said spare bit line to said  
second data line according to said first input address;  
              a third column select gate connecting said second selected bit line to  
10          said second data line according to said second input address; and  
              a fourth column select gate connecting said spare bit line to said first  
data line according to said second input address.

4. The memory device according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a decode circuit not only selecting first and second access memory  
cells among said plurality of normal memory cells connected to said first  
and second selected bit lines, respectively, according to an address signal,  
5           but also performing selection of portions corresponding to said first and  
second access memory cells from said plurality of spare memory cells.

5. The memory device according to claim 1, wherein  
each of said plurality of normal memory cells and said plurality of  
spare memory cells changes an electric resistance value according to write  
data, and

5           said read amplifying circuit detects a change in said electric resistance value.

6. The memory device according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of normal memory cells and said plurality of spare memory cells includes a magnetic storage element.

7. A memory device comprising:  
a plurality of memory cells storing information by a change in respective electric resistance, and arranged in one memory cell array;  
a read amplifying circuit performing parallel data reading from a plurality of selected memory cells selected simultaneously among said plurality of memory cells; and  
a current path forming section forming a plurality of read current paths respectively corresponding to said plurality of selected memory cells between said read amplifying circuit and a supply source of a power supply potential, wherein  
10           said plurality of read current paths are separated from each other at least in said memory cell array.

8. The memory device according to claim 7, wherein  
a part of said plurality of memory cells are spare memory cells each used instead of a defective memory cell when said defective memory exists in normal memory cells among said plurality of memory cells, and  
5           said plurality of selected memory cells includes:  
said normal memory cells; and  
said spare memory cells.

9. The memory device according to claim 7, wherein  
said current path forming section includes: a plurality of source lines giving reference potentials for data reading to each of said plurality of selected memory cells, and  
5           said plurality of source lines are separated from each other at least

in said memory cell array.

10. The memory device according to claim 9, wherein  
first and second selected memory cells among said plurality of  
selected memory cells are both placed on a first row in said memory cell  
array,

5           first and second source lines, among said plurality of source lines,  
provided correspondingly to said first and second selected memory cells,  
respectively, are geometrically interchanged therebetween so that in a first  
region where said first memory cell is arranged, said first source line is  
placed along said first row and said second source line is placed along a  
10          second row adjacent to said first row, while in a second region where said  
second memory cell is arranged, said second source line is placed along said  
first row and said first source line is placed along said second row.

11. The memory device according to claim 9, wherein  
first and second selected memory cells among said plurality of  
selected memory cells are placed on first and second rows, respectively, in  
said memory cell array,

5           first and second source lines, among said plurality of source lines,  
provided correspondingly to said first and second selected memory cells are  
placed along said first and second rows, respectively, and

              said memory device further comprising:

10          a first select line for selecting both of said first and second selected  
memory cells; and

              a second select line provided adjacent to said first select line,  
wherein

15          said first select line and said second select line are geometrically  
interchanged therebetween at some midpoint on said first select line so that  
said first select line is placed along said first row in a first region where  
said first selected memory cell is arranged, while being placed along said  
second row in a second region where said second selected memory cell is  
arranged.

12. The memory device according to claim 9, wherein  
first and second selected memory cells among said plurality of  
selected memory cells are placed both on a first row in said memory cell  
array, and

5 first and second source lines among said plurality of source lines,  
provided correspondingly to said first and second selected memory cells,  
respectively, are both placed obliquely to said first row in parallel to each  
other.

13. The memory device according to claim 9, wherein  
first and second selected memory cells among said plurality of  
selected memory cells are placed on first and second rows, respectively, in  
said memory cell array,

5 first and second source lines among said plurality of source lines,  
provided correspondingly to said first and second selected memory cells,  
respectively, are placed along said first and second rows, respectively, and  
said memory device further comprising: a first select line for  
selecting both of said first and second selected memory cells, wherein said  
10 first select line is placed obliquely to said first and second rows.

14. A memory device comprising:  
a plurality of normal memory cells including respective electrically  
conductive magnetic elements;

5 a plurality of normal bit lines provided correspondingly to the  
plurality of columns each of normal memory cells;

a plurality of first reference memory cells connected to said the  
plurality of normal bit lines with one-to-one correspondence;

10 a plurality of spare memory cells each used instead of a defective  
memory cell when said defective memory cell exists in said plurality of  
normal memory cells;

a plurality of spare bit lines provided correspondingly to the plurality  
of columns of said spare memory cells;

a plurality of second reference memory cell connected to said

plurality of spare bit lines with one-to-one correspondence; and  
15        a read circuit connected to four bit lines including a first bit line to  
which a memory cell to be read is connected, a second bit line selected from  
said plurality of normal bit lines other than said first bit line, a third bit  
line to which a spare memory cell corresponding to said memory cell to be  
read is connected and a fourth bit line selected from said plurality of spare  
20        bit lines other than said third bit line according to said address signal to  
generate a reference value for data reading through synthesis from first  
and second reference memory cells connected to the second and fourth bit  
lines, respectively.

15. The memory device according to claim 14, wherein  
each of said plurality of normal memory cells takes first and second  
resistance values different from each other according to storage data,  
each of said plurality of first reference memory cells takes said first  
5        resistance value, and  
each of said plurality of second reference memory cells takes said  
second resistance value.

16. The memory device according to claim 15, wherein  
each of said plurality of normal memory cells takes said first  
resistance value in an initial state thereof.

17. The memory device according to claim 15, wherein  
each of said normal memory cell takes said first resistance value in  
an initial state thereof, and  
each of said plurality of second reference memory cells includes:  
5        an electrically conductive magnetic element taking said first  
resistance value; and  
a fixed resistance taking a resistance value obtained by subtracting  
said first resistance value from said second resistance value.